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**THE SOVIET SEVEN-YEAR PLAN  
AND SOME OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS**

**Speech by Dr. Amasasp A. Aroutunian, Soviet Ambassador,  
to the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs,  
Queen Elizabeth Hotel, on May 21, 1959**

It is always a pleasure for me to speak in Montreal on international problems. Montreal is a large centre of international trade. It is the seat of an important international specialized agency. Many international conferences have been held here. I recollect the first steps of my diplomatic activities at an international conference which took place in your wonderful city in 1944. I enjoyed my work at that time, particularly because of the mutual understanding and good co-operation of the Soviet and Canadian representatives. I can assure you that I have come today to address this meeting in the good spirit of those days.

Il faut parler français dans cette ville, qui a si bien conservé les traditions de la culture française. Mais tout le monde me comprendra quand je parle anglais.

I am delighted to be here this evening to have an opportunity to share with you some of the information and understanding I have gathered regarding the seven-year plan for the economic development of the Soviet Union and some of its international aspects. May I say that the seven-year plan is not a creation of the devil against humanity. It is a program of ordinary human beings trying to do their best to improve their economic and cultural life further at the fastest possible pace. And we believe that our drive for a better life is not a threat to other

peoples, on the contrary it is an encouragement for them in their economic and cultural progress. We invite all of them to peaceful international economic co-operation.

Allen W. Dulles does not agree with that. He thinks that the seven-year plan is a diabolical conspiracy against the society which enjoys freedom under his vigilant supervision. No doubt that is a professional method of approaching the matter by a director of an intelligence agency. You can be sure that even if the Bible were introduced today he would greet it with suspicion and consider it a subversive conspiracy against society. By the way the guardians of order reacted exactly that way when the Bible first appeared.

Trying to put naive people in fear, Mr. Dulles in a speech last April 8, before the Electric Institute, considered that the target figures and the tasks of the seven-year plan "formidable", "unrealistic", "patently nonsense", and certainly, "a standard tool of Communist propaganda". If that is so, one may wonder why Allen W. Dulles expresses such great anxiety about that plan and says that it represents a threat to the society which he governs. He is, at least, not consistent and not realistic. I am glad that in response to that very peculiar and contradictory speech by Allen W. Dulles some sound voices of his friends were heard advocating a realistic appraisal of the Soviet seven-year plan.

The seven-year plan for the economic development of the Soviet Union is indeed a very realistic undertaking with all its staggering goals and the greatness of its target figures. Moreover the seven-year plan is already in operation and it is working very well. The first part of that plan which covers the first quarter of this year has been successfully carried out. The plan of industrial production for the first quarter of 1959 was fulfilled by 105 per cent. The output of industrial production increased in the first quarter of the current year in comparison with that for last year by 11 per cent. That means that the fulfilment of the seven-year plan has been started at a pace even more rapid than was envisaged in the plan itself. The seven-year plan envisages average annual growth of industrial output of 8.6 per cent.

The rapid development of industry is a basic economic law of the whole progress of the Soviet Union. That basic law lies at the foundation of the seven-year plan for the development of the national economy of the Soviet Union for 1959-65. The plan is a vigorous program for further, massive, industrial, agricultural, and cultural progress of the country. The plan provides for a high rate of growth and for a very large increase in the physical volume of production, for a further development of science, technique, and culture and for a substantial improvement in the standard of living of the whole population.

To carry out the plan will certainly not be an easy job. We understand that better than anyone else. We are conscious of what we lack and we know how to remedy that. The Soviet people are full of energy; they have the experience and knowledge to fulfill their economic plans.

One of the main characteristics of the seven-year plan is to secure a high rate of development of the national economy of the country. Industrial output in the Soviet Union is to be raised by 80 per cent in 1965 in comparison with that of 1958. One has to take into account the high level of the present industrial production in the country in order to visualize the real material growth of the economy. The Soviet Union is the second most powerful industrial nation in the world. In 1965 steel production will reach 100-million tons; oil extraction - 1.7-billion barrels; coal output - 609-million metric tons; the production of electricity - 520-billion kilowatt hours; the output of mineral fertilizers - 35-million metric tons; and so on. In the next seven years the production of consumer goods will rise by 65 per cent, the gross output of agriculture - by 75 per cent.

To insure the overall large increases in the Soviet economy and culture in the next seven years we shall have such a huge capital investment that it will equal that in all the preceding years of the Soviet regime. The total capital investments for 1958-59 will run into 3,000-billion roubles, two-thirds of which will represent national, state investments, and one-third will come from local resources, from collective farms and individuals. In terms of dollars the average, annual investments for 1959-65 will be more than 100-billion dollars.

The national income of the Soviet Union will increase by 65 per cent, which is a substantial growth. The real incomes of the workers, farmers, and employees are to be raised 40 per cent; popular consumption - by 63 per cent. In the next few years we are going to give up collecting taxes from the population. In 1960 we shall accomplish the switch to a seven-hour working day for all wage-earners and a six-hour working day for underground workers. In 1964 we shall start to set up, gradually, a 30-hour week for underground and some other categories of workers and a 35-hour week for the rest of the wage-earners. Some groups of workers will even have a shorter working-week than I have mentioned. The 35-hour week will be the maximum working week in the country. The reduction of the working-day is in progress now without any curtailment of wages; on the contrary everything is done to increase wages at the same time.

The seven-year plan provides for: large-scale housing construction, a substantial improvement in social security and insurance activities and public health and free medical services; a new great encouragement of the development of culture, art, the theatre, music, radio, TV, and so on; a further development of educational and scientific establishments, nurseries, kindergartens, schools, universities, institutes, laboratories. During the seven-year period over 2,300,000 specialists will secure a higher education and in 1965 the number of university and institute graduated specialists in different fields of science, technique and the humanities will exceed 4,500,000.

The seven-year plan, as you see, opens up a continuous improvement in the living standards of the people. The distribution of the goods produced by a nation among all its members is one of the most important problems of any society. In the Soviet Union the distribution of material and cultural values is based upon the socialist principle: from each according to his abilities, to each according to his labour. The Soviet Union has now entered a new

period of its historical development - the period of the gradual over-growing of socialism into communism. Under the seven-year plan we shall do our best to create in the near future economic, scientific and cultural conditions, and particularly an abundance of material values, for the systematic, gradual, step-by-step transition to the distribution of goods on the communist principle: from each according to his ability, to each according to his need. For that reason we call the new period of the development of the Soviet Union the period of the extensive building of a communist society.

N. S. Khrushchev in his report at the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union last January 27, defined the main tasks of that new period of Soviet development as follows: "The principal tasks of this period are to establish the material and technical base of communism, to further strengthen the economic and defensive might of the USSR and, at the same time, to provide for the fuller satisfaction of the growing material and spiritual requirements of the people".

The Soviet people have started the fulfilment of the seven-year plan with great confidence and a firm certainty of success for the inspiring program of the economic and cultural development of the country and of a decisive growth in the living standards of all the population. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union gives the right leadership in the peaceful economic and cultural construction under the seven-year plan.

I could go further in reviewing the seven-year plan for the economic and cultural development of the Soviet Union, but I believe that what I have already said is enough to give you an idea of its magnitude. Such a great program for the development of a society at a rapid pace cannot fail to influence the whole human community, including, dare I say, Canada with its industrious and imaginative people. The seven-year plan of the Soviet Union certainly deals with domestic affairs, with the problems of the development of the national economy. But, no doubt, it will have a tremendous influence on the world economy and the international situation. Everyone present here irrespective of his philosophy realizes, I believe, the significance of the level of the economic development of a country for the role which that country might play in world affairs.

First of all, what will be the general trend of the influence of the seven-year plan on the international relations? Will the fulfilment of the plan help to decrease international tension and to maintain lasting peace in the world? The answer can be definitely in the affirmative. And I am going to explain why.

The seven-year plan envisages, as I have tried to inform you, a huge amount of construction - factories, power stations, housing, municipal and rural projects, nurseries,

schools, universities, theatres, health resorts, clinics, and so on. The plan provides for a substantial growth of an improvement in the free health services, social insurance, and other public and cultural services. The ultimate goal of the large-scale construction is to achieve a continuous improvement in the living standards of the people - to get a substantial increase in people's consumption, to have better food and better clothing, modern housing, shorter working hours, good recreation, full education, a high level of cultural life, and all the modern facilities for a free, happier life for the people. That requires that a huge amount of resources be spent.

Only a nation can afford such huge expenses and start such large-scale construction which has peace not war in its view. Who can deny that? The Soviet people need peace in order to fulfil the seven-year plan and to enjoy the fruits of their labour. Lasting peace is a necessary pre-condition for the success of the seven-year plan. The Soviet people, the government itself, the Communist Party, realize that to the full extent and unconditionally. The seven-year plan is imbued with a spirit of peace and presupposes lasting peace. The last words of N. S. Khrushchev's report on the seven-year plan at the recent Party Congress - Long live world peace - are not a mere slogan. They expressed the spirit of the plan itself. The Congress reacted with stormy, prolonged applause, rising into an ovation and, I may assure you, that was an expression of their feelings not only towards the seven-year plan but towards world peace as well. The approval of the seven-year plan has consolidated the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union. We firmly believe that the time has come to ease international tensions, that all peoples are waiting for a break-through in the development of international relations in order to settle by peaceful negotiation the differences between nations and to secure a lasting peace.

The modern progress of science and technics, particularly in the field of nuclear energy and intercontinental missiles, in the field of mastering outer space, makes peaceful methods the only means to resolve international conflicts. In his interview of May 5, N. S. Khrushchev told the West German Social-Democratic editors: "Seeking nowadays to resolve vexed problems by unleashing a war is a policy of madmen. And the only place for crazy people is a lunatic asylum".

The realization of the seven-year plan will strengthen and invigorate the peace forces in the world. The economic growth of the Soviet Union, China, and the other socialist countries during the coming seven-year period will definitely change the correlation of force in world affairs in favour of peace. The peoples of previous colonies and semi-colonies have become active forces for peace. In the capitalist countries the democratic forces are striving for peace more and more. No doubt there are people in some countries who are busy prepar-

a new war. But nowadays the peace-loving forces are much stronger than the people rattling nuclear arms. The fulfilment of the seven-year plan and the further growth of the peace force will devalue more and more the policy of the cold war, the policy of from positions of strength, the brink-of-war policy.

Not only the Soviet peoples but the peoples of other countries as well have a great aspiration for a better life, to work in peace, to secure happiness for their children and for their families. That noble aspiration is common to the peoples of all countries whatever the social and economic system. That creates a solid foundation for the lasting peaceful coexistence of all countries regardless of their social and economic system.

The philosophy of peaceful coexistence is not a new idea in Soviet foreign policy and certainly not a subversive one. From the very beginning of the Soviet regime Lenin, father of Soviet power, stressed the desirability and necessity of the peaceful coexistence of socialist and capitalist countries. Nowadays there is no alternative for socialist countries, or for capitalist countries but peaceful coexistence. It is a vital necessity for humanity. We are fully aware of that.

The philosophy of peaceful coexistence is a solid principle of Soviet foreign policy and we consider that it can also be accepted by other countries.

As to Canada, I firmly believe in genuine peaceful coexistence between the Soviet Union and this country. I venture to affirm that there is not a single question in the relations between Canada and the Soviet Union which cannot be resolved in a friendly way by means of negotiation, by a good-neighbour approach. There can be misunderstandings, even mistakes there can be hard issues in our relationship, but all of them can be removed in a friendly way. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned I may assure you that our policy towards Canada is to develop friendly and good-neighbourly relations in the political field as well as in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical fields. Soviet policy towards Canada has no other end or intention but to develop friendly relations with Canada. Any other supposition will be wrong. Nothing in the past produced any conflict of national interests between our countries. There is no contradiction between the national interests of Canada and the Soviet Union. As these two countries can give a good example of a good neighbourhood.

I firmly believe that good-neighbour relations between Canada and the Soviet Union may have a very important positive influence upon world affairs helping to ease international tension and to secure lasting peace. In certain conditions Canada may play a more important role in international policy.

There is no question but that there is mutual mistrust between the socialist and the capitalist countries, which puts obstacles in the way of the development of peaceful coexistence.



But obstacles can be overcome, at least gradually. And all genuine forces for peace have to make contributions to overcome the mutual mistrust between peoples of different countries. The exchange of people and knowledge in various fields of human activities - culture, art, education, sports, medicine, sciences, technics, industry, agriculture, transport, banking, business, trade unions, and so forth - can only help to develop mutual understanding and to promote better relations between the countries with different national cultures and different social systems. The Soviet Union greatly favours the normal mutual exchange of people and knowledge to that end. The seven-year plan provides for great opportunities in the development of friendly relations between the nations, which will promote the strengthening of world peace.

The seven-year plan attaches a great importance to the extension of foreign trade and business contacts with other nations including Canada. It is envisaged to double at least Soviet foreign trade during the next seven years. At present Soviet exports equal more than four-billion dollars. The same goes for Soviet imports. The Soviet Union occupies sixth place in world trade. The growth of Soviet foreign trade under the seven-year plan will open up good possibilities for an increase in world commerce.

You see there is not the slightest mark of autarky, self-sufficiency, in the economic development of the Soviet Union. I know that there are some people in the West who teach that the dogma of autarky is basic to communist doctrine. I have read about that, may I remark, in one of the articles in the "International Journal", published quarterly by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. That is not correct, it contradicts the real development of the Soviet economy. We believe in a world division of labour, but not under the domination of a big power. It is not our fault that towards trade with the Soviet Union, China, and the other socialist countries some capitalist countries exercise a policy of discrimination which gives a push to those countries to develop their own production of articles which they previously imported from the West. Besides that, nobody can scientifically justify the thinking that the full-ranged development of the economic resources of a country is autarky. Neither is it autarky to develop the economic independence of a country, which does not exclude exports and imports. It is a fact that the economically independent countries nowadays are the countries which are highly industrialized with a large foreign trade. Talk about the dogma of autarky is generally used to try to discredit the industrialization of a new country, particularly a country which is economically underdeveloped and dependent upon the country from where, generally, the criticism of industrialization under the veil of talks about autarky comes from.

As to the Soviet Union, we intend to continue the development of our economic resources to the full extent in order to secure our economic might and independence at the same time pushing ahead our foreign trade. Under the seven-year plan the rate of increase of the foreign trade of our country will be even more than that of industrial production. But foreign trade will take a very small part of our national product. The economic independence of the Soviet

Union will secure the fulfilment of the seven-year plan. The Soviet Union's own efforts, its internal and not foreign resources will bring the success of the plan. But that does not exclude the foreign exchange of goods if both the Soviet Union and its trade partners express a mutual interest in trade. On that basis we can also develop good trade with Canada.

Commercial relations between the Soviet Union and Canada are, relatively, a new business. The trade people of both countries do not know enough about the possibilities of trade expansion between both countries. But the possibilities are great and they have not been used for our mutual advantage. The Soviet Union is really interested in increasing its trade with Canada and in negotiating a new trade agreement. I believe Canada has at least the same interest. Under the seven-year plan we can expand our trade in both directions - from Canada to the Soviet Union and from the Soviet Union to Canada.

As to the progress of the discussions concerning the renegotiation of the trade agreement between our two countries, I stated last April 20 in the Canadian Club in Ottawa that we are busy now finding out the proper formula which corresponds to the interests of both countries. Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, said on May 14, in the House of Commons that discussions are proceeding with Soviet representatives to establish a mutually satisfactory basis for a renewal of the trade agreement.

Our philosophy is that the normal development of commercial relations between countries is highly desirable. Trade should be mutually advantageous. On the world market we can find the proper solution of problems which may arise. Only equal partnership, a respect for mutual interests, is needed in trade. All obstacles including the political discrimination hampering world trade should be taken away. Trade is a very sound foundation for the development of mutual understanding and good political relations. The Soviet Union is ready to develop its normal commercial and economic relations with all the nations.

It is not known widely that the Soviet and British Prime Ministers, N. S. Khrushchev and H. Macmillan agreed that it is desirable and possible to enlarge the trade between these two countries. About a week ago a British delegation with Sir David Eccles, Minister of Trade, at the head arrived in Moscow for trade negotiations. Sir David Eccles declared that the British have examined the seven-year plan with great interest and that the British Government is going to encourage British trade with the Soviet Union. That gives me the opportunity to state that Great Britain is the first western country which is going to take advantage of the expansion of Soviet foreign trade under the seven-year plan.

I often hear that the seven-year plan is an economic challenge to the Western world. I agree with that in one respect, and only in one, namely, that the seven-year plan invites the nations to show their best in the development of their economy for the benefit of the



people and for peaceful, international economic co-operation. We call that peaceful economic competition between different countries and we believe it is beneficial to all. If one wants to call it an economic challenge, that is up to him. N. S. Khrushchev said:

"We want to compete with the capitalist countries in peaceful pursuits, to compete with them in the development of the productive forces, in the development of the national-economic potential, in the promotion of the people's material and cultural standards. We want each system to demonstrate its economic and spiritual powers in this competition. To use the language of commerce and business, which apparently, the representatives of the capitalist world understand more easily, we can put it this way. Let us - the socialist world and the capitalist world - display our "goods", each showing its own. Let each system show where the working day is shorter, where the working man gets more material and spiritual values, where he has better living quarters, where he has more opportunities for an education, and what part he takes in deciding matters of state and in the political affairs of his country. Each show who is the real owner of all the material and cultural riches - the man who works or the man who does not work but has the capital".

What is wrong with that kind of peaceful economic competition? It is much more sound than a model of international relations than the cold war, not to mention a hot war. The Soviet Union invites other countries to enter into such a peaceful competition. And from that point of view the Soviet Union decided that its basic economic task for the near future is to overtake and to outstrip the most advanced capitalist country - which now means the United States in output per head of population in the briefest possible period of history. Allen W. Dulles, horrified by that idea which he considers heretical; he has become furious and in that is he has gone out of his mind. Otherwise how one can explain him saying now that Soviet industrial output in 1958 was not more than 40 per cent of that of the United States, while long while ago he gave the same percentage for 1956. It is known that in 1957 and 1958 Soviet industrial production increased by 10 per cent each year; United States industrial production decreased in that period - it dropped 6.5 per cent below the 1956 level. Allen W. Dulles does not care, he continues to play with this magic 40 per cent business.

In fact the Soviet industrial output now is about half of the United States; agricultural production is lower by 20-25 per cent. U. S. industrial output per head is more than twice that of the USSR, agricultural output about 40 per cent higher. That is the present situation of relative level of industrial and agricultural production in the Soviet Union and the United States. That is the starting point of a new stage in our peaceful economic competition with the United States under the seven-year plan.

For the march of events connected with that competition the rate of development will play a decisive role. In recent years the average annual rate of growth of U.S. industry

production has been 2 per cent. We take into account for the next seven years the same average annual tempo. The Soviet seven-year plan fixes the average annual rate of growth of industrial output as 8.6 per cent. One says that the U.S. rate can be an average 2.5 per cent or even 3 per cent. The increase of Soviet industrial production during 1959 shows a much higher rate than is fixed by the seven-year plan, namely, 11 per cent. No doubt, the rates in both cases can be altered, but that will not change the trend of the movement and the final results. In reality we have some indication of an acceleration of the movement in favour of the Soviet Union. We are sure that the average annual growth of Soviet industrial, as well as agricultural output, designed by the plan, will be surpassed.

It is very important to note that in annual growth of industrial production the Soviet Union is now ahead of the United States. We add more to national industrial output each year than the Americans do and we go forward four times as fast.

One has to take into account the population of the country and the rates of its growth. According to the census which took place last January 15th, the Soviet Union has a population of nearly 209,000,000. This exceeds the population of the USA. By the end of the seven-year plan the Soviet population will probably exceed the United States by 15 to 20 per cent. That means that the Soviet Union must have much greater industrial and agricultural production as a whole in order to catch up with and surpass the United States in production output per head of population. Taking into account all relevant factors, our people have estimated that the Soviet Union will catch up and surpass the United States both for the physical volume of production and production per head of population by 1970, if not earlier.

The realization of the seven-year plan will be a decisive step to that end. In 1965 the USSR will surpass the USA for physical output in some key lines of industry and draw near to the present level of output in others. In major farm production - both physical output and per head of production - the USSR will surpass the present level of the USA, N. S. Khrushchev said in his report to the last Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union: "Consequently, by that time (1970) - or even earlier - the Soviet Union will rank first in the world both for physical volume of production and production per head of population. That will be a world historic victory for socialism in its peaceful competition with capitalism in the international arena".

Russia, before the Great October Socialist Revolution, had only 3 per cent of the world industrial output. The socialist economic development of the country, its industrialization and collectivization radically changed the share of the Soviet Union in world production. In 1937 the Soviet Union's industrial output was already 10 per cent of the world's industrial output, in 1958 - 20 per cent. In 1965 - it will rise to 30 per cent. At that time the USSR, China, and the other socialist countries together will have more than one-half of the world's industrial output.

One need not be a prophet to say in the light of world development that the United States' industrial supremacy is not something which will last indefinitely. Indeed it is moving to its end. For many of our contemporaries, particularly for the Americans, it is psychologically difficult to understand and to accept that historic fact. I guess it was almost the same with the British people when Great Britain, once the world's industrial workshop, lost its industrial supremacy to the United States.

The industrial development of the capitalist countries has taken place spontaneously through bitter competition and rivalry, through conflicts of interests, through deepening internal contradictions in society. Lenin formulated the basic law of the disproportionate development of capitalist countries and industry.

The industrial development of the Soviet Union has quite a different character. By its nature socialist industrialization in the Soviet Union does not create rivalry between nations. Let us take, first of all, Soviet relations with other socialist countries. The Soviet Union favours the industrialization of all socialist countries and gives appropriate assistance to them to develop their own national industry, agriculture, and transport. The industrial development of socialist countries does not create rivalry among them; this is in exact contrast to that which is very characteristic for the industrial development of capitalist countries.

There are twelve socialist countries in the world including two big powers - China and the Soviet Union - and small nations - Bulgaria, North Korea, and so on. The Soviet Union materially assisting the other socialist countries to develop their national industry, does not have one single Soviet-owned industrial enterprise in those countries. There is no direct Soviet capital investment in other socialist countries. There is no affiliation, no Soviet subsidiaries, or any kind of joint stock company branches with Soviet participation, in those countries. We lend them capital under very liberal favourable conditions, at a very low rate of interest - generally at one to two per cent. Sometimes we grant them economic aid. We send them all kinds of modern machinery and assist them to produce modern machinery in their own country. We give them free know-how. We train their engineers, managers, and qualified workers. We help them to put into operation and to handle modern industrial enterprises and we leave the country and come back to the Soviet Union.

For example, China is developing its national industry on a very large scale and with astonishing speed. In another ten to twelve years China will become the world's third industrialized country. The Soviet Union is not afraid of Chinese rivalry. There is no such notion in the economic relationships of socialist countries. On the contrary, the socialist countries try to co-ordinate their economic and industrial development.

Giving each other fraternal assistance and support, the socialist countries will raise the economic life in all socialist countries to a common high level corresponding to the modern requirements of human life. The distinctive feature about socialist industrialization is that it consolidates first - the national economy of the country, second - the mutual economic relations of the socialist countries.

Moreover, we are of the opinion that all countries in the world may develop, and have to, their own national resources to the fullest extent and to industrialize their economy - to create extracting and manufacturing industries, mechanized agriculture, modern transport. The time has come for the industrialization of the countries of Asia, South America, and even Africa. This industrialization is the march of time in the so-called economically underdeveloped countries. It is the most solid material foundation for the economic and political independence of those countries. If some foreign countries ask the Soviet Union to assist them in the development of their own national industry, the Soviet Union will do its best to the extent of its possibilities.

The seven-year plan will increase Soviet resources for the economic and technical assistance of those foreign countries which might want Soviet aid for the development of their own national industry. In this case also we do not seek in the underdeveloped countries direct capital investment or some kind of joint stock company branches with Soviet participation. We exclude that completely; we do not want any economic penetration or domination in underdeveloped countries. We consider that all the national resources of each country belong to the people of the country concerned and have to be used by the national forces and under the national guidance in the interests of the people of that country. Extracting or manufacturing industries, particularly in the countries described as economically underdeveloped, should be national - I do not say nationalized, although I do not exclude that. I mean nationally owned, without any foreign domination in any of the branches of the industry of the country. Economically underdeveloped countries have to receive genuine material assistance to develop their own national industry and economy for the benefit of their own people and for strengthening their economic and political independence.

We exclude any kind of policy which leads to imposing economic or technical aid upon underdeveloped countries; we exclude any kind of penetration of foreign interests into the economy or policy of underdeveloped countries under the guise of economic aid or technical assistance. Independent economic development of countries will lead to better international economic co-operation.

The seven-year plan is a plan for peaceful economic and cultural construction in our country and it opens up large perspectives for economic co-operation with other countries without any exclusion and regardless of differences in the economic, social, political, racial, and cultural structure of countries. We call on all people to develop peaceful economic co-operation believing that this will help to preserve and strengthen lasting peace. I conclude my speech by stressing once more the peaceful spirit of the seven-year plan for the development of the Soviet Union's national economy.

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